



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Travis Linquist
916/445-5566

CARMICHAEL VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS TO HELP SACRAMENTO TEENS

Sacramento Area Foster Grandparent Impacts Lives of Countless Teens

SACRAMENTO - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) *Spotlight* features the hard work of Mary Hopkins, a Foster Grandparent that spends 30 hours per week helping teenage girls in Sacramento County's Juvenile Hall.

Ms. Hopkins has volunteered at Juvenile Hall for sixteen years. As a volunteer, Ms. Hopkins spends time with the teens, counsels them, and helps them negotiate the juvenile court system. Mary also speaks to the teenagers about drug awareness matters, gang involvement, and other issues that affect young adults. There have been many instances in which she has sat throughout the night with troubled teens who have contemplated suicide. She is honest and open with the young teens and they, in return, are straightforward with her. Through her commitment, Ms. Hopkins has established a relationship with the teenagers that they depend on and through years of volunteering, Ms Hopkins has encouraged many kids to achieve their dreams despite tremendous hardships. In fact, Ms. Hopkins has maintained contact with many of the teens with whom she has worked.

"Mary is one of those special volunteers who provide critical help to troubled teens," Executive Director of GO SERV, David Muraki said. "Many of these teens have never had a positive adult role model, Mary gives that to them through her commitment to helping them get their lives on the right track."

The GO SERV Spotlight recognizes people and programs, on a weekly basis, making a difference in their communities through service and volunteerism. To view the full Spotlight story, visit the GO SERV website at www.goserv.ca.gov. Visitors to the GO SERV site can nominate someone for a Spotlight award and/or find a volunteer opportunity in their community through the volunteer match program.

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